

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action dated March 27, 2004. Claims 1 to 38 are in the application, with Claims 1, 10, 18, and 28 being independent. Claims 1, 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, 34, and 36 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

A new replacement drawing sheet was submitted on May 17, 2004. Acceptance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,319,416 (Takagi). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 10, 18, and 28 variously recite, *inter alia*, (a) that each of the plurality of second areas shares a photoelectric element with the first area, in combination with (b) a means for correcting the photometric result or the reference value.

Applicant respectfully submits that Takagi fails to disclose or suggest at least the foregoing combination of features.

The Official Action states that in Takagi B1-B24 are “shared” with F1-F3 as claimed. However, it is Applicant’s understanding that B1-B24 and F1-F3 do not share the same photoelectric elements since F1-F3 correspond to elements 11a-11c and B1-B24 correspond to elements 43a, which are different from elements 11a-11c.

With respect to the embodiment shown in Figs. 14 to 17B of Takagi, a difference in luminance between adjacent elements is obtained (steps S305 and S306), and the difference in luminance is determined to be greater than or less than a certain value (steps S307, S310, S314, and S317). However, Figs. 14 to 17B of Takai, together with their accompanying description, are not seen to teach or suggest at least the claimed correction

means.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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